Presteigne Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1937.

PRESTEIGNE :
Beddoes, County Printing Works.

WARDEN COURT,
PRESTEIGNE,
July, 1938.

To the Chairman & Members of the Presteigne Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Seventh Annual Report as Medical Officer for your Districts together with the Report of the Sanitary Officer.

The Report has been compiled according to the instructions of the Ministry of Health relevant to the District.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,
R. R. WALKER,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Staff.

Dr. R. R. Walker, M.D., Bch. Cantab.,
Medical Officer of Health.
Richard P. Morris, A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector.
Both part time Officers.

Special Conditions of the District.

I can only repeat what I have previously said that the District is purely Agricultural. The Town of Presteigne is the Market Town for the produce of the farms ; weekly markets are held for the disposal of poultry, butter, eggs, fruit and vegetables. There are also periodical Stock Auctions held in a properly constructed Smithfield. There are no industries which are prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants, and the more Urban Area is approximately 500 feet above sea level.

Area	2998 acres.
Number of Inhabited Houses	423.
Rateable value	£3828.
Product of a penny rate ...	£15.
Registrar General's estimated population mid-year 1936 ...	1109.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

BIRTHS.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births	12	9	3
Still Births	3	2	1

1 Illegitimate - Female.

Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population - 10·8

Maternal Mortality per 1000 ... Nil.

DEATHS.

Total.	Males.	Females.
20	9	11

Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 18·1

There were no deaths from Puerperal Fever or Puerperal causes ; 1 death of an infant girl at 2 days.

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough or Diarrhœa, neither any deaths from Tuberculosis.

Ages at Death—

4	females	over	80 years.
5	,,	between	70 & 80 years.
1	,,	at	59 ,,
1	,,	at	38 ,,
3	males	between	70 & 80 years.
2	,,	,,	60 & 70 ,,
1	,,	at	60 years.
1	,,	at	55 ,,
1	,,	at	32 ,,
1	infant	at	2 days.

Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population - 18·1

Infantile death rate per 1000 children born - ·10

Causes of Death,

Heart Disease ...	8
Other Circulatory diseases	4
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1
Other defined diseases ...	1
Influenza ...	2
Cancer ...	4

Infectious Diseases.

There was only one case of Infectious Disease notified during the year and this was Enteric Fever.

Tuberculosis.

There were 20 cases on the Register at the beginning of the year, there were no fresh cases notified during the year. There were no deaths during the year from Tuberculosis.

Laboratory, &c.

The same arrangements exist as reported in my Annual Report for 1935.

During the year 3 samples of water were taken from different sources. One from the Town supply which showed the water to be of excellent quality and free from any signs of pollution ; one sample was taken from the River and this was also satisfactory, the other sample was taken from a private source and this showed signs of pollution, the supply was stopped and a fresh supply used.

Nursing Arrangements.

These remain as previously reported.

Infectious Disease Nursing.

Negotiations have been concluded with the Shrewsbury Isolation Hospital and cases are removed there direct.

Hospitals.

As in 1935 Report.

Ambulance Facilities.

Ambulance for infectious cases is obtained from the Shrewsbury Isolation Hospital which comes over and takes the cases in as required. The Kington & District Ambulance and the Llandrindod Wells Ambulance are also used.

Schools.

The Sanitary arrangements are in good condition, also the Water supplies.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Water Supply.

The water during the year remained plentiful and of good quality. Two samples of drinking water were analysed, the one showed signs of pollution and was condemned the other which was the Town supply was excellent. Another sample was taken from the River about 100 yards below the Town and this was satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Only a few short lengths of drains have been put in during the year.

The sewerage tanks also the broad irrigation of the sewerage is under constant supervision and is working well.

Closet Accommodation.

A few conversions have taken place during the year but it is hoped that all dwellings will by the end of the year have a separate water closet. The Council passed a resolution to this effect and a special inspection was made, a great many have already had the work carried out and others have given their orders to the contractors.

Scavenging.

The collection of the refuse is as in my previous Report. An extra man has been engaged for two days in each week to assist in the collection and attend to the Ash Tip.

Sewers.

No Sewers have been laid or re-laid during the year, regular flushing takes place and no complaints have been received as to any nuisance arising.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

The number on the Register remains as in my previous report.

The premises are regularly inspected and during the year there has been no need for any action.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 3 on the Register and these are always kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Foods [other than Meat].

There were no condemnations of any food or fruit during the year.

Bakehouses.

There are 4 on the Register, regular inspections are made and these have been found at all times to be kept satisfactorily.

REPORT as required by Article XIX of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

Inspections under—	No. of Inspections.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Complied with.
Housing Regulations 1930 Act ...	22	18	—	18
Housing Regulations Public Health Act	121	62	—	16
Workshops and Factories ...	21	1	—	1
Dairies & Cowsheds	129	—	—	—
Bakehouses ...	25	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses ...	110	—	—	—
Water Supplies ...	6	1	—	1
Infectious Disease	4	—	—	—
Nuisances Complaints	—	—	—	—

Complaints—		
Investigated	...	—
Letters written	...	36
Privies—		
Converted	...	8
Repaired	...	4
Infectious Disease	...	4
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	10
Inspections	...	129
Nuisances—		
Inspections	...	16
Work completed	...	16
Water Closets—		
Provided	...	8
Repaired	...	Nil.
Drainage—		
New	...	Nil.
Re-laid	...	Nil.
Ventilated	...	1
Sinks repaired	...	8
Water Supply—		
Samples taken	...	3
Bakehouses—		
Inspections	...	25
Slaughterhouses—		
Inspections	...	110
Seizures	...	Nil.

Houses—

Erected	...	1
Derelict made fit	...	4
Inspections	...	143
Recorded	...	Nil.
Work in progress	...	1

Factories and Workshops Act.

Bakehouses	...	4
Blacksmiths	...	1
Cabinet Makers	...	1
Building Contractors	...	6
Cycle Repairers	...	1
Laundries	...	1
Motor Garages	...	2
Saddlers	...	1
Printers	...	1
Ironmongers	...	1

Number of Inspections of Factories and Workshops ... 21.

RICHARD P. MORRIS, A.R.S.I.,
Inspector.

Housing.

One new dwelling was erected by private enterprise during the year.

The Council have obtained land for the erection of three pairs, specifications and plans have been prepared, these houses will be for the accommodation of the overcrowded cases found during the survey.

Four houses will it is hoped during this coming year be materially altered so far as construction and alterations are concerned, there will then be only a few cottages that require attention.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Total number including those given separately under (b) Nil.

i.	By Local Authority	... ...	Nil.
ii.	By other Local Authorities	...	Nil.
iii.	By other Bodies or Persons	...	1

(b) With State Assistance under Housing Acts.

i. By Local Authority ... ... Nil.

(a) For the purpose of Part II. of the 1925 Act Nil.
(b) For the purpose of Part III. of the 1925 Act Nil.
(c) For other purposes ... ... Nil.

ii. By other Bodies or Persons ... Nil.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Health and Housing Acts and the number of Inspections made 8
2. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and the number of Inspections made ... ... Nil.
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... Nil.
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heads) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 4

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 16

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 5 of the Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served ... ... Nil.
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice ... ... Nil.
   (a) By Owners ... ... Nil.
   (b) By Local Authority ... ... Nil.
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of Declaration by owner of intention to close ... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil.

2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice—

   (a) By Owner ... ... Nil.

   (b) By Local Authority in default of Owner ... Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Secs. 11, 14, 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of a Closing Order ... ... Nil.

2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil.

3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... ... Nil.

4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil.

5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order ... ... Nil.

4. Number of Houses owned by the Local Authority.

Distinguishing those built in the last two years and held under (1) Part III. of the Housing Act, 1925.

(2) Part II. of the Housing Act, 1925.

(3) Other Powers 6

R. R. WALKER,

Medical Officer.